

above the ground, had five featherless chicks, five or six days old. The other nest, in a box elder about 300 feet from the first, 20 feet from the ground, was being built.

This is the first record of the breeding of the Fieldfare in Rumania.

Of course it nests sporadically in other places on the north-eastern extremity of the Rumanian Carpathians, but investigation of the extent of the breeding range of this species, is for the future.

References :

Dombrowski, R. 1912. *Ornis Romaniae*. Bukarest.

Strautman, F. I. 1954. *Ptitsy Sovetskikh Karpat* (The Birds of the Soviet Carpathians). Kiev.

— 1963. *Ptitsy zapadnykh oblastei U.S.S.R.* (The Birds of the western regions of Ukraine). Vol. 2. Lvov.

A further note on the Spike-heeled Lark *Chersomanes albofasciata* in East Africa

by C. W. BENSON and A. D. FORBES-WATSON

Received 15th June, 1966

Benson (1966) described *Chersomanes albofasciata beesleyi* on a single specimen from 30 miles north of Arusha, northern Tanzania, collected by J. S. S. Beesley. Forbes-Watson collected six further specimens on 10th–11th April, 1966 in the same locality, which may be known as Kingerete, at 3° 00' S., 36° 40' E., altitude 4,600 feet above sea-level. Their measurements in mm. and some other particulars are as follows:—

Sex	Wing	Tail	Culmen from base	Tarsus	Hind claw	Weight in gms.
♂	81	39	21.5	29	19	26.0
♂	79	36	21	28	15	28.5
♂	81	37	20	28	18	28.0
♀	72	33	18	26	14	21.5
♀	71	33	18	27	14	23.5
juv. ♂	78	38	19.5	28	12	25.5

This further material has been compared with the type of *beesleyi* (an adult male) and with other material of the species previously examined by Benson (1966) in the British Museum. His diagnosis of *beesleyi* is borne out in all respects so far as it goes. But in addition the two females are as somewhat richer russet on the lower chest to abdomen than the four apparently adult males, and seem nearer in this respect to *C. a. subpallida* (Roberts) rather than to *C. a. obscurata* (Hartert) or *C. a. boweni* (de Schauensee). Also, while dusky streaking on the chest is relatively well developed in both sexes, these markings seem slightly more so but less bold in males. Thus there may be minor sexual colour differences in *beesleyi*, apparently lacking in any of the southern forms, so widely separated from it. All five of the additional adults are rather more brownish, less greyish in tone on the upperside than the type, but are in fresher dress. They are an even closer match in this respect to *Pseudalaemon fremantlii delamerei* Sharpe and *Calandrella rufescens athenis* (Sharpe). The small size of *beesleyi* is also confirmed by the additional material.

The measurements may be compared with those for the southern forms in McLachlan and Liversidge (1957: 255) and Mackworth-Praed and Grant (1962: 633-637). The juvenile lacks any rufous on the nape, and has the feathers of the upperside as a whole less markedly tipped with white than in adults. On the underside the markings on the chest are larger and smudgier than in adults, while the lower chest to abdomen is paler, though there are some darker, adult feathers appearing.

The birds were found in an entirely treeless area covering some three square miles, entirely surrounded by plains with scattered small thorn trees. There was much stony terrain, which however they seemed to avoid, confining themselves to short (less than one foot high) grass. About 20 individuals were seen in all, mostly singletons or pairs, the most seen together being four. When disturbed, they would fly away to settle some distance ahead, thereafter to be flushed close to where they had landed. In flight they made wader-like calls, those recorded by McLachlan and Liversidge (1957: 255) being apparently very similar.

One of the females collected had evidently recently bred, but no other specimen showed any marked gonad activity. The stomach contents were examined by R. H. Carcasson, who found the main food to be curculionids (weevils), present in all six specimens, while three also had tenebrionids (*Diodontes areolatus* Gerst.), and one had a buprestid. In addition there was a 75 mm. long centipede, three lepidopterous larvae including one psychid without its case, and one grass seed. Only one contained any grit, merely a single small angular pebble.

Benson is responsible for the comments on the specimens in this note; Forbes-Watson has provided the remainder of the information. A male and a female of the material he has collected are to be deposited in the National Museum, Nairobi, Kenya; the remainder in the British Museum.

References:

- Benson, C. W. 1966. The Spike-heeled Lark *Chersomanes albofasciata* in East Africa. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.*, 86: 76-77.
 Mackworth-Praed, C. W. and Grant, C. H. B. 1962. *Birds of the Southern Third of Africa*, 1. London.
 McLachlan, G. R. and Liversidge, R. 1957. *Roberts' birds of South Africa*. Cape Town.

Some sunbirds: additions and corrections

by C. W. BENSON

Received 6th May, 1966

With reference to the notes in *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.*, 1966: 62-66, the correct name for the southern and eastern form of *Nectarinia seimundi* (Ogilvie-Grant) is not *N. s. minor* (Bates) but *N. s. traylori* Wolters (*Journ. Ornith.*, 1965: 357).

Three further males of *N. bouvieri* (Shelley) have been traced in the British Museum, their localities and measurements in mm. as follows:

	Wing	Tail	Culmen from base
Mubuku Valley, Uganda	57	38	21
Sandoa, southern Congo	56	37	23
Sandoa, southern Congo	57	38	24